

Knowledge organiser: The First World War

<p>This chapter investigates the reasons for the first ever 'world war', and the reasons why it began in 1914. It also considers what the war was like for those fighting in it, and what the losses and gains were once the war was over.</p>		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words.	
		1870–71	The Franco-Prussian War. Victory led to the creation of the German Empire.	Kaiser	German word for Emperor
Summarise your learning		1906	HMS <i>Dreadnought</i> launched, changing the nature of naval warfare	Great powers	Countries with international influence and military strength.
Topic 1: Why did the First World War start in 1914?	The tensions that fuelled the war had been building between European countries since the creation of a united Germany in 1871.	1914	Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Bosnian-Serb nationalists.	Colony	Land settled by and under the control of people from another country.
Topic 2: Empires and the naval arms race	Rivalries between the Great Powers were also important in building tension pre-1914. Germany's ambitions were a challenge to Britain and France.	1916	The Battle of the Somme. More than 65,000 soldiers on both sides killed or wounded during the first day of battle.	Balkans	An area in south-east Europe including Serbia, Bosnia, Turkey.
		1918	End of the First World War.	Alliance	An agreement between countries that benefits each of them.
Topic 3: Alliances and the Schlieffen Plan	European alliances were designed to prevent conflict, but problems in the Balkans escalated to a world war through the alliance system.	1919	The Treaty of Versailles. Germany had to agree that it was to blame for starting the war, and to pay for the damage caused.	Annex	An area of land seized and made part of another country.
		Who or what were these people/events?		Arms race	A competition between countries for the development and production of weapons.
Topic 4: Who was to blame for starting the war?	Historians have argued for many years about which country was to blame – there are many different possible causes and explanations.	Otto von Bismarck	Chancellor Bismarck engineered the creation of a unified German nation.		
		Alfred von Schlieffen	Schlieffen developed a plan in 1897 in which Germany would attack and defeat France quickly, and then fight Russia.		
Topic 5: What was the First World War like?	The horrendous nature of trench warfare on the Western Front was very different from what volunteers had expected when war was first declared.	Wilhelm I	When the German states were united in 1871, Wilhelm became German emperor.	Battalion	A fighting unit of up to 1000 men.
		The Black Hand	A secret society of Serbs dedicated to unite all Serbs in the Balkans.	Bombardment	A continuous attack with artillery shells (shelling).
Topic 6: The end of the war: losses and gains	The First World War was the worst war in the world's history, and it was followed by a flu pandemic killing 50 million. However, there were gains in medicine, industry and politics.	Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, assassinated by Gavrilo Princip in 1914.	Mutiny	When soldiers or sailors rebel and refuse to follow orders.
		General Haig	Allied commander whose strategy for the Battle of the Somme resulted in very high casualty rates for Allied soldiers.	Western Front	The zone of fighting that stretched from Switzerland to the English Channel.